

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner wishes to thank the Applicants and Applicants' representatives for the time and courtesies extended in the telephonic interview on March 4, 2008. It was agreed during the interview that amending the claims in the manner set forth in the Amendment submitted on March 5, 2008, would place the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4, and 5 allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 4, and 5 are allowed because, as agreed in the telephonic interview on March 4, 2008, none of the prior art of record discloses or suggests each cell comprising a single protection transistor disposed in the second circuit branch and associated with a protection management unit for taking the cell out of service independently of the other cells, wherein the protection transistor of each cell is a MOS transistor connected in series in the second circuit branch of the cell between the inductor and the second positive terminal, and including an intrinsic diode having its cathode connected to the inductor, and its anode connected to the second positive terminal, in combination with the remaining claimed features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed March 5, 2008, with respect to the rejections of claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1, 4, and 5 have been withdrawn.

5. The objection to claim 30 and the rejections of claims 6-9, 11, 13-19, 21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 33-37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are moot in view of the Applicants' cancellation of those claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hal I. Kaplan whose telephone number is 571-272-8587. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2836

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Sherry/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2836

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